

Appln no. 09/676,620  
Amendment dated July 20, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A heptanoic acid antimicrobial composition comprising:  
0.01 to 5 wt. % heptanoic acid; and  
greater than 60 wt. % of a freezing point depressant component comprising propylene glycol and glycerin.

2-5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the freezing point depressant component consists of a mixture of propylene glycol and glycerin.

7. (original) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below 32°F.

8. (original) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below 20°F.

9. (original) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below 10°F.

10. (original) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below 0°F.

11. (original) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below -10°F.

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12. (original) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below -20°F.

*Rule (26)*  
14. <sup>13</sup> (currently amended) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the freezing point depressant component makes up greater than 65 wt. % of the total composition.

15. <sup>14</sup> (currently amended) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the freezing point depressant component makes up greater than 70 wt. % of the total composition.

16. <sup>15</sup> (currently amended) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the freezing point depressant component makes up greater than 75 wt. % of the total composition.

*16-17*

17-18. (canceled)

19. <sup>18</sup> (previously presented) A method for controlling mastitis in milk producing animals, the method comprising:

applying a heptanoic acid antimicrobial composition to a teat of a milk producing animal, wherein the heptanoic acid antimicrobial composition comprises:

0.01 to 5 wt. % heptanoic acid; and

greater than 60 wt. % of a freezing point depressant component comprising propylene glycol and glycerin.

20. <sup>19</sup> (previously presented) The method of claim <sup>19</sup>, wherein the antimicrobial composition is applied in environmental temperatures of below 40°F or is applied to the teat of the milk producing animal that will be exposed to environmental temperatures of below 40°F within 12 hours of the application.

21. <sup>20</sup> (previously presented) The method of claim <sup>20</sup>, wherein the environmental temperatures are below 30°F.

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21 22 (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the environmental temperatures are below 20°F. 19

23 22 (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the environmental temperatures are below 10°F. 19

23 - 24  
24-27: (canceled)

27 28 (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the freezing point depressant component consists of a mixture of propylene glycol and glycerin. 18

28 29 (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below 32°F. 18

29 30 (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below 20°F. 18

30 31 (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below 10°F. 18

31 32 (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below 0°F. 18

32 33 (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below -10°F. 18

33 34 (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the composition has a freezing point of below -20°F. 18

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35. <sup>34</sup> (currently amended) The method of claim 1<sup>9</sup>, wherein the freezing point depressant component makes up greater than 65 wt. % of the total composition. <sup>18</sup>

36. <sup>35</sup> (currently amended) The method of claim 1<sup>9</sup>, wherein the freezing point depressant component makes up greater than 70 wt. % of the total composition. <sup>18</sup>

37. <sup>36</sup> (currently amended) The method of claim 1<sup>9</sup>, wherein the freezing point depressant component makes up greater than 75 wt. % of the total composition. <sup>18</sup>

38. <sup>37</sup> (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein the freezing point depressant component consists essentially of a mixture of propylene glycol and glycerin. <sup>18</sup>

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 1<sup>9</sup>, wherein the freezing point depressant component consists essentially of a mixture of propylene glycol and glycerin. <sup>18</sup>

40. <sup>39</sup> (canceled)

41. <sup>40</sup> (canceled)

42. <sup>41</sup> (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, further comprising rheology modifier, lanolin, surfactant, sequestrant, or mixture thereof. <sup>18</sup>

43. <sup>42</sup> (previously presented) The method of claim 1<sup>9</sup>, wherein the composition further comprises rheology modifier, lanolin, surfactant, sequestrant, or mixture thereof. <sup>18</sup>